THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) An Empowered Action Group (EAG) has been constituted on 20th March 2001 in the Department of Family Welfare to formulate area-specific projects to strengthen the delivery system of health care in these four states, as well as, enhancing the availability and accessibility of Family Planning Services. Accordingly, financial assistance is provided to States under the Family Welfare Programme for activities such as referral transport, routine Immunization, Pulse Polio, RCH Camps strengthening, Dai Training, RCH out reach scheme, report and refurbishing of health facilities etc.

Apart from these, under the special areas projects e.g. USAID in Uttar Pradesh, RCH sub-projects funded by UNFPA in Rajasthan and DANDIA Project in Madhya Pradesh etc. additional funding is provided for infrastructure and social mobilization. Over and above this, a sum of Rs. 250 crores has been earmarked during the Xth Plan to support local and need based initiatives.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In order to motivate Non-Government Organizations, the Guidelines have been revised to involve the NGOs not only for advocacy but, in under served areas also for providing services as required by the communities being served. It is expected that this will enhance access to Family Welfare and Reproductive and Child Health Services to address the unmet needs.

Loss of Eyesight after free Eye Surgery in Tamil Nadu

1129. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 45 persons lost sight after free eye surgery in Tamil Nadu; which appeared in various newspapers on 1st February, 2003;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry was conducted;

(c) the main reasons for the incident;

(d) whether earlier also, in such free eye camps a number of people were affected and became blind; and

(e)if so, whether Government are considering to ban such free eye camps operating in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Out of 47 cases operated at Periyakulam, in Theni District of Tamil Nadu, 28 patients developed post-operative infection. Out of these, 8 patients improved vision after treatment. 20 patients are being treated at Rajaji Hospital, Mdurai.

(b) Enquiry was conducted by a committee constituted by State Government of Tamil Nadu consisting of Deputy Director of Tamil Nadu State Blindness Control Society and Director & Superintendent of Regional Institute of Ophthalmology and Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Egmore, Chennai.

(c) Source of infection has not been established.

(d) Two such mishaps have come to the notice of Government one in the District of Bhuj, Gujarat where 2 persons lost their eye sight in May 2002 and another at Ludhiana, Punjab in October 2002 where 35 persons lost their vision.

(e) Specific guidelines have been issued to all Districts/States/ UTs to conduct cataract eye surgery at fixed facilities where permanent Operation Theatre facilities are available. To ensure quality of surgery, clinical practice modules on quality assurance in cataract surgery and general precaution to safeguard against post operative infection have been issued by Government of India.

Selling of Banned Drugs

1130. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many combination of drugs being sold in the open markets that are either disapproved or banned by the Drug Controller of India;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to keep a check on such combination of drugs so that they are not made available to the public; and